



Year In Review Newsletter

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MOCRS Close Rooftop Car-lot



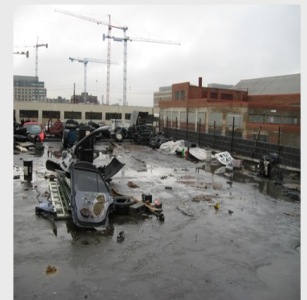
The closure of an illegal auto repair business storing vehicles on the roof of the establishment brought much satisfaction to Ward 6 residents. During a routine survey of the community MOCRS discovered Saba Autos; one of the District's most negligently operated auto repair shops located on the 1200 Block of 4th street, NE. The business posed threats to both the safety and health of the surrounding community.

During the initial inspection of Saba Autos, MOCRS uncovered 40 vehicles illegally stored on its roof top. With the assistance of staff

from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), and many other District Government agencies a more thorough investigation of the property and its business records was done. It was determined that Saba Autos has been in opera-



tion for several years without any licenses. The investigation revealed that the business had committed several environmental crimes including improper storage of solid waste and oil, painting without proper ventilation, and parking on public space. These crimes amounted to over three pages in fire code violations. They also



illegally sold insurance to taxi cab drivers in the city.

Saba Autos was eventually shut down and was issued thousands of dollars in fines from the agencies involved. DPW assisted in the cleaning and abatement of the property and DCRA is currently handling the sale of the property.

Increased Attention to Ward 1 Focus Improvement Areas

On February 25TH 2009 Ward 1 Operation Fix-It Team concentrated their efforts in one of the District's Focus Improvement Areas (FIA); areas where persistent crime has become an issue requiring multiple agency resources and enforcement. Operation Fix-It is Mayor Fenty's weekly multi agency effort to remove signs of blight from communities across the District.

The first Fix-It was done on the 700 Block of Kenyon and its surrounding area. There are currently five vacant properties on the block being used as illegal dumping sites. One resident complained about an infestation of

raccoons in one of the properties. The Department of Health (DOH) was able to remove the raccoons and the Department Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) proceeded with boarding and securing the property using manpower offered by the National Guard. DOH also treated the entire block with poison to address ongoing rat infestation as a result of the constant illegal dumping and improper trash disposal by many residents.

Additionally, the Fix-It included the 600 block of Lamont Street, NW and 1400 Block of Columbia

Road, NW; also part of the Ward 1 FIA. At these locations illegal dumping was also removed, and a substantial amount of graffiti from Columbia road.



Before: North side of the Alley of 700 Block of Kenyon



After



Mayor Adrian Fenty Distributes a turkey at Kelly Miller

Turkey Time

This past holiday season, District residents received a special holiday treat from Mayor Adrian M. Fenty as part of his Annual Thanksgiving Basket Give-Away.

This year distributions were at several public housing developments in Wards 1, 6, 7, and 8 over a three day period. Over 400 baskets were distributed to deserving families selected by the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA).

On November 20th Distributions began in Ward 1 and were done in partnership with Council Member Jim Graham at Garfield Terrace and Kelly Miller housing developments

Councilmember Tommy Wells joined the Mayor as he made distributions to 175 families at Syphax Gardens in Ward 6. The Final day of distributions took place at Benning

Terrace in Ward 7 and Woodland Terrace in Ward 8. Members of the Mayor's Cabinet personally delivered the baskets to the families at Benning Terrace while the largest distribution to 250 families at Woodland Terrace was accomplished with the help of volunteers from the Calvin Woodland Foundation.

All Hands on Rosedale



On Saturday November 25th, the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) partnered with several community members, including Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Gladys Mack and other D.C. agencies to coordinate a clean-up in the Rosedale Section of Ward 6. Their efforts were part of the week long city wide initiative, All Hands on Deck (AHOD), spawned by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). Almost 50 community members participated in

the effort, half of which were youth participants from Positive Choice's Inc.; a local non-profit organization that devel-



ops inner city youth.

The group filled over 90 bags with trash and debris from the area. The Department of Public Work's (DPW) Helping Hands Program supplied cleaning tools for the team and removed the trash after the clean-up was completed. Addi-



tionally, several MPD officers worked alongside the team in an effort to strengthen their ties with the Rosedale community.

Neighbors were appreciative of the team's time and dedication to the community. "A strong message was sent that citizens are ready to be part of the change process." stated Forest Hayes MOCRS Outreach and Services Specialist

"A strong message was sent that citizens are ready to be part of the change process."

-Forest Hayes, Outreach and Services Specialist

MOCRS Coordinate Fix-IT in Ward 5

After complaints about illegal dumping on a property from Edgewood community members, MOCRS coordinated a fix-it at 142 T Street, NE, the District's most severe cases of illegal dumping on a residential street.

"What we found was an absolute blight to this community, the property's state was beyond being just a nuisance, it was a threat to well being of the residents that had to live near

it" stated Alice Thompson, Ward 5 Outreach and Services Specialist.

To remove the huge accumulation of trash and debris MOCRS requested the assistance of the Department of Public Works's (DPW) A-Team; their top abatement crew as well as their Abandoned Auto's division. Together the team removed an abandoned mini van that remained

without tags and tons of trash left behind by an evicted family and others in the community. The property owner was issued several fines from DPW and a lien was also placed on the property.





4226 Dix Street, NE



4200 Block of Edson Street, NE



4219 Quarles Street, NE

Razing Blight in Ward 7

Throughout this past year MOCRS Ward 7 Outreach and Services Specialists increased focus on addressing nuisance properties in several neighborhoods in their Ward. Working with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) they have identified and abated many of the most egregious properties in the ward; many of which have been the center of complaints from community members.

In 2008 MOCRS and DCRA razed three properties in Ward 7. 4427 A Street, NE was the first to be razed in the spring of last year. When the property was first discovered all that remained from a long pe-

riod of neglect was the shell of the home, no roof, and weak flooring. The property posed an eminent threat to neighbors.

4426 Dix Street was razed in late November within weeks of its discovery. The property was damaged due to a fire that occurred a year prior. The entire back porch was “hanging on its hinges” stated Demetria Harris, MOCRS Outreach and Services Specialist. Rats had begun to infest the area and illegal dumping had become an ongoing problem. “Because of these issues it was deemed a health safety hazard and it was critical

that we had it removed immediately” Ms. Harris said.

The final property to be razed was 4219 Quarles Street, NE. After a fire that took place the owner relocated and left the property abandoned and unsecured. The property had many of the same conditions presented in the others and after three months it was removed from the community.

In order for a property to be razed in the District it must pose an eminent threat to area and be structurally unsound. Often properties that were in fires or had severe termite damage have been razed.

Operation Pit-bull: Car Lot Enforcement Initiative

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty initiated a city-wide effort to crack down on illegal used car dealerships in the District. The initiative entitled "Operation Pit-bull" involved several government agencies including the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the Office of the Attorney General (OAG).

Throughout the month of November when the initiative began, these agencies diligently investigated more than 100 car dealerships in the

city; most of which have been non compliant with District laws and owed thousands of dollars in fines.

By mid November, 26 car dealerships were closed down after it was determined that they harbored dangerous vehicles and were in violation of license and building codes. On November 17th, 2008 the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) was involved in the closure of Citi Motors, one of the many dealerships along the Bladensburg Road Corridor. Their licenses were revoked by the Mayor and Attorney General

Peter Nickles and were subject to thousands of dollars in fines. 41 cars were removed from this location.

In the subsequent week two car dealerships in Ward 7 endured a similar fate. Both Auto E-Prise and Jega Auto Sales on the 3200 hundred block of Benning road were identified by MOCRS after months of neighborhood complaints about their operations. Upon investigation, several stolen vehicles that were in non sellable conditions were found and confiscated from the lot. Business licenses were also revoked from the owners.



Merriment in Georgetown

On Sunday, December 7th Mayor Fenty participated in "Merriment in Georgetown", the first annual Christmas Caroling event hosted by the Citizen Association of Georgetown (CAG). The event at-

tracted over 100 carolers and included the voices of the St. Johns Church Choir. The group began caroling on the corner of Wisconsin Ave and M Street, NW and continued on for three blocks sharing the festive spirit

of the holiday season with the entire Georgetown community



Mayor Fenty takes photo with carolers

SOUTH CENTRAL OFFERS A HELPING HAND



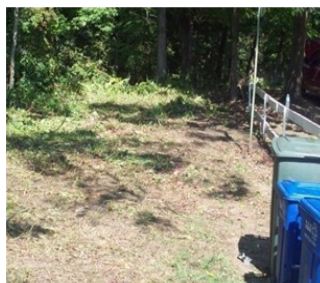
On Saturday October 4th, 2008 members of the South Central community of Ward 5 displayed the highest form of civic engagement and leadership by offering their time to participate in a neighborhood clean-up as part of Mayor Adrian Fenty's "Operation Fix-It" initiative that aims to remove signs of blight and crime throughout the District.

Led by Frances Penn, President of the South Central Civic Association and Martha Ward, Ward 5 Community Activist, the group of approximately 15 neighbors successfully removed the trash, overgrowth, and debris that overwhelmed a cul-de-sac on the 2800 Block of Franklin Street, NE.

The Department of Public Work's (DPW) Helping Hands Program supervised by Mr. Thomas Day offered support to the community members, providing the needed tools and cleaning materials to get the

job done. Once the clean-up was complete, DPW scheduled the pick up of all the filled trash bags.

The South Central group pledged to continue the maintenance of the area which has been an ongoing nuisance to the surrounding community. Moving forward, they will join together every six weeks to trim tree boxes, cut brush, and remove trash from the area; their goal is to plant a community garden for neighbors to enjoy for the upcoming spring season.



Continued Focus in Logan Circle

In late October of 2008 Sergeant Joseph Perren of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Second District was approached by a resident of the 1200 Block of 10th Street, NW about a vacant property its illegal activity. He immediately sought the assistance of MOCRS and the entire Operation Fix-it team to address the issue.

1211 10th street has been vacant for years, continuing to be a nuisance to the surrounding community. When MOCRS surveyed the property it was

vacant, with trash, overgrowth, broken windows, and evidence of squatting was discovered.

They also established that the property owner was receiving a Homestead Exemption which offers protection from having to pay property taxes. Working with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) trash and overgrowth was removed from the property and it was boarded and secured. Additionally, DCRA also revoked the

owner's tax exempt status and reported the property to the Board of Condemnation (BCIB). Being reported to BCIB ensured that the owner is taxed at a much higher rate for owning and neglecting a vacant property.



Elvans Road Walkthrough

As a result of walkthroughs coordinated by the MOCRS and led by Mayor Fenty, several infrastructure improvements were made in the Fort Stanton Community of Ward 8. The first walkthrough occurred in December of 2008 and then a month later in Early January of 2009. They were conducted on the 2400-2500 blocks of Elvans Road and Pomeroy Street, SE.

Multiple DC agencies including the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) were involved in the walkthrough that attracted the participation of community members. The purpose of the walkthrough was to address ongoing issues that have

affected the community plagued with an increase in violent crimes.

Since the Walkthrough the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) committed resources to resolving the issues identified. DDOT installed new sidewalks and speed humps on the 2500 Block of Pomeroy, SE. Several abandoned vehicles were removed by DPW- Abandoned Autos Division from the 2500 Block of Elvans Road, and jersey barriers were removed by DCRA.

According to Shanelle Simms, MOCRS Outreach and Services

Specialist for Ward 8, "Moving forward our focus of this area is to ensure the safety and quality of life for these residents. We will continue to coordinate with MPD for more crime focus and prevention, as well as the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for more youth activities." DPW has also assured that increased enforcement to maintain vacant lots are going to be placed on the owners; many have allowed overgrowth and illegal dumping to overwhelm their properties.



Chevy Chase Fix-It

A Fix-It was conducted in the Chevy Chase community of Ward 3 addressing several issues including unlawful storage of abandoned autos, illegal dumping, rat infestation, and infrastructure maintenance.

Residents living near a gas station on the 5000 Block of 36th Street, NW contacted the MOCRS with accusations that the station management was using public space to store several abandoned vehicles. Upon investigation MOCRS discovered

vehicles without any tags along 36th street as well as illegal dumping; however it was uncertain if the vehicles were placed there by the owners of the gas station. With the assistance of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Abandoned Auto Division all the vehicles were removed and impounded.

Within the same vicinity DPW assisted with removing trash and debris from a commercial business. The Department of Health (DOH) issued

\$500 in fines to the business for the rat and as a precautionary measure closed rat burrows in the area.

Lastly, the Fix-It also concentrated on the ongoing infrastructure issues that concerned residents. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) filled potholes along 36th street and has proposed the installation of new sidewalks on 36th Street between Fessenden and Garrison Streets, NW.



Mayor Fenty Meets and Greets with NWCHA

In December of 2008 Mayor Adrian M. Fenty attended the monthly meeting of the Northwest Columbia Heights Civic Association (NWCHA) to meet with members of the newly organized community group; sharing updates about plans for the entire city and the Ward 1 community.

Ward 1 Council Member Jim Graham was in attendance and introduced the Mayor to the group of 90 community members. To help facilitate the meeting and make it more inclusive for the neighborhood's Latino

population, CARECEN (Central American Resource Center) was present offering Spanish translation. The gathering gave attendees an opportunity to get to know their Mayor on a more personal level and to share concerns. Issues presented to the Mayor were focused on public safety and recent increases in violent crimes in the area. Residents were also concerned about the poor response time to 911 calls. In response to these issues Mayor Fenty assured that MPD has

made efforts to re-focus on improving safety and increasing policy visibility in Ward 1. Also, Inspector Edward Delgado of the Third District Police Station introduced their new Livelink system, which allows community members to place non emergency calls to MPD and designated police officers immediately responds. Livelink will be used to report crimes such as robberies as well as to make anonymous tips.



Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Sarah Latterner
Director

1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Suite 211
Washington, D.C.
20004

Phone:
202-442-8150

Fax: 202-727-5931
Email:
sarah.latterner@dc.gov



We encourage you to become involved in our offices efforts. To learn more contact us at **202-442-8150** or visit us at www.mocrs.dc.gov



As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my mission to represent our community through quality constituent services. My staff in the Office of Community Relations and Services and I are dedicated to working with members of the community to enhance the quality of life for all District residents. I encourage you to contact us with your issues or concerns so that fundamental changes can continue to be made in our neighborhoods. I thank you for your continued support.

*Best Wishes
Mayor Adrian Fenty*

Schedule a Fix-it In Your Neighborhood

Schedule a Fix-IT:

Operation "Fix It" is Mayor Adrian Fenty's multi-agency initiative aimed at abating areas where crime, blight and compliance issues require participation from more than one DC Government agency.

MOCRS is committed to serving you and improving our communities. To request a "Fix-It" in your neighborhood contact your Ward Outreach and Services Specialists at **202-442-8150**.

We Accomplish:

- Street and Alley Cleaning
- Auto Removal
- Rodent Abatement
- Business Compliance
- Graffiti Removal
- Building Inspection
- Overgrowth Removal
- Traffic and Light/Sign Repair
- Illegal Dumping and Trash Pick-up
- Street/Alley/Sidewalk Repair

